

Meeting Minutes

Linn County Hazard Mitigation Plan
Kickoff Meeting

November 15, 2017

6:00–6:45 PM

Jean Oxley Public Service Center
Cedar Rapids, IA

1. Consultant and jurisdiction representative introduction

The jurisdiction representative for the plan, Les Beck—Director of Planning and Development, Linn County—started the meeting by stating the need to update the Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan before the end of the approval period for the current plan. He introduced himself and Stephanie Lientz—Planner II, Linn County—who was also present. He also shared that the County contracted with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) to complete the plan. He introduced two planners from ECICOG, Alicia Presto and Tom Gruis, who delivered the presentation following Mr. Beck’s introduction. Mr. Beck shared that the plan update was partially funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. He stated that there was a local match for that program, which Linn County, the City of Cedar Rapids, and the City of Marion were providing.

The following jurisdictions were represented at the meeting:

- i. Alburnett
- ii. Bertram
- iii. Cedar Rapids
- iv. Cedar Rapids Community School District
- v. Center Point
- vi. Central City
- vii. Coggon
- viii. Ely
- ix. Fairfax
- x. Hiawatha
- xi. Lisbon
- xii. Linn County
- xiii. Marion
- xiv. Mount Vernon
- xv. Mount Vernon Community School District
- xvi. Palo

xvii. Prairieburg

The jurisdictions that were not represented include the following:

- i. Robins
- ii. Springville
- iii. Center Point-Urbana Community School District
- iv. Central City Community School District
- v. College Community School District
- vi. Linn-Mar Community School District
- vii. Lisbon Community School District
- viii. Marion Independent Community School District
- ix. North Linn Community School District
- x. Springville Community School District

Information from this meeting will be provided to each jurisdiction, and the consultant will determine if they plan to participate in the plan development process.

2. Hazard mitigation planning overview

The planning consultant explained the basic components of a hazard mitigation plan, which include a risk assessment, hazard prioritization, and a mitigation strategy. The overall purpose is to identify risks in the community and determine how to prevent or reduce the negative impacts of hazards.

3. Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding programs

The planning consultant explained that a major benefit for each jurisdiction to be included in a hazard mitigation plan is eligibility for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants. The brochure for Hazard Mitigation Assistance was provided to jurisdiction representatives. The consultant provided three examples of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-funded projects from Coggon.

4. Requirements for inclusion in the plan

The planning consultant explained the main requirements for inclusion in the plan. Each jurisdiction must 1) form a planning committee, 2) host a community planning meeting, 3) participate in the public comment period, and 4) adopt the plan by resolution. A handout titled "Hazard Mitigation Plan Development Process" was provided with more information about requirements for inclusion in the plan. The consultant provided information related to individuals who may be helpful to have as members of a planning committee, the general topics covered during a community planning meeting, the materials that will be provided for community meetings, and a very general order of events in the plan development process.

5. Goal setting

Jurisdiction representatives reviewed the goals in the current hazard mitigation plan and example goals provided by the planning consultant. The consultant suggested all the jurisdictions adopt the same goals. Refer to the meeting handout titled “Goal Setting.” Attendees decided to adopt the example goals but keep the language “or students” where applicable. Discussion was also held regarding a jurisdiction revisiting their goals during the community planning meeting since most jurisdictions at the Kickoff Meeting had only one representative attending. The consultant stated that the suggestion to have all jurisdictions using the same goals was to provide more consistency in the planning area and reduce redundancy in the plan, since many of the goals for jurisdictions with their own goals were very similar to the goals used by 14 jurisdictions in the current plan. The consultant also stated that a jurisdiction could revisit their goals during the community planning meeting if it was an important topic.

6. Discuss next steps in the plan development process

The consultant presented a general timeline for the remainder of the planning process. The consultant will contact each jurisdiction to discuss forming a planning committee and scheduling a community planning meeting.

Minutes completed by Tom Gruis on 11/29/2017.